have interpreted them as giving actual and exclusive ownership of all land which is not privately owned which is really State land. As a result of this condition, nearly all the land from Manamah to beyond Zellaq, along the coast, is claimed by various members of the Ruling Family.

Date Cultivation.

Dates are the most important crop in Bahrain; though not as good as the Hasa dates, they are said to be more lasting. Most gardens contain a large proportion of inferior species which are used only for feeding animals. Few gardens are well kept. More than half of the gardens belong to the Khalifah, who for years have spent no money on improving them, but in spite of this they complain incessantly that the rents have fallen off, which is owing to the decrease in the market price of dates by over 60%, and the deterioration of the gardens from lack of care and expenditure on improvements. Dates form part of the staple diet in Bahrain and are much used for provisioning the pearl fleet, but the home-grown crop is not enough to meet the local demand, and every year about six lacs' worth of dates are imported from Hasa and Iraq. There is no land tax and no tax on date trees in Bahrain, so it is impossible to give an estimate of the number of date palms, but the whole area under cultivation is very small, perhaps one-fiftieth of the total area of the islands. Recently the number of date gardens has been slightly increased, as a few people, notably the Ruler himself, have sunk artesian wells and planted land with trees. The date crop could undoubtedly be improved if more care was taken over the cultivation. In Bahrain, date cultivation is a casual affair, trees are never manured, and there is no regular system of planting. In one of the Ruler's gardens the experiment was made some years ago of manuring the roots of the trees, and the result of this was that the trees produced better crops than those which had not been manured. The use of any form of fertiliser, either decayed leaves and camel thorn or animal manure, was unknown a few years ago, but it is now being used in gardens, but not for date trees.

Lucerne.

Lucerne is used extensively as fodder for cows and donkeys. It grows rapidly and is easily cultivated on poor soil. Both Hasa and Bahrain seeds are used, the latter being more expensive, and when once established it will grow for as long as ten years and will give a crop every month. It is very hardy in growth, but is liable to attacks by a kind of small caterpillar which appears once or twice every year and destroys all the lucerne in whole districts of the country. Experiments have been made by the camel section of the police in drying lucerne and using it as dry fodder when out on patrol; this has been found very successful.

Cereals.

At one time it was the custom of the people of Rafaa to sow barley before the rainy season on the plain below the town, and for many years successful crops were harvested, but the crop occasionally failed owing to lack of rain. For some years now this practice has ceased, partly because the people of Rafaa are more prosperous than before, as almost all the able-bodied men of the town have obtained employment with the Bahrain Petroleum Company.

An experiment was made in growing California barley by the Government some years ago on irrigated land, and this was found to be a success.

Last year, millet was raised in the Fort garden. It sprang from the camel manure which was used in the soil. It grew sufficiently well to show that there were possibilities of its being grown on a large scale. Maize or Indian corn has also been grown in small quantities.

Three years ago a crop of rice was grown by Khan Bahadur Abdul Aziz Gomihi, who is a large landowner and interested in agriculture. The rice was grown in rich, well-watered land near Sehlah; the seed was from Hasa, where it is cultivated extensively, and the crop yielded a small profit.

A little maize or Indian corn is grown in some gardens, and finds a ready sale in the bazaar; the quality is poor, probably because no care is taken to procure good seed.

Cotton.

In the time of the Caliphs, cotton from Bahrain used to be sent to Baghdad, but it is not certain that this cotton was grown in the islands, as at that time much of the mainland was also known as Bahrain. In 1930 an experiment was made in growing